

# **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current  
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



AgB4Pro

USDA  
NAT'L AGRIC LIBRARY  
1996 MAR 16 A 724  
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS  
200/SERIALS BRANCH

# YOUTH, and POULTRY

**A GUIDE FOR 4-H POULTRY LEADERS**



**PA-464**

**Federal Extension Service**

**U. S. Department of Agriculture**

## FOREWORD

Development of the boy or girl is the prime goal of 4-H Club work. A good leader must be interested in boys and girls and have the ability to stimulate their interests.

You can develop your own imagination and ability to expand ideas for projects in poultry. Your own interest, imagination, and initiative then become the main ingredients of good leadership. No doubt you have already developed some of these skills as a leader in other organizations.

An understanding of the poultry industry in your area is valuable but not essential to lead a successful 4-H Poultry Club or project. Many more people work in the poultry industry besides poultry farmers. Among them are processors, marketing agencies, retailers, hatcheries, storage and transportation companies; all these are important in providing poultry products for the consumer. The producer usually performs only one step in today's poultry industry, where he formerly provided all these services from farm to table.

Many people feel that only poultry producers are qualified to supervise 4-H Poultry Projects or lead 4-H Poultry Clubs. This is not true. In fact as we've said, they usually represent only one phase of the total industry. Certainly poultrymen can and do serve as leaders of 4-H Poultry Clubs; but the pressures of large commercial poultry farms often prevent them from serving as leaders of 4-H Clubs. Naturally, though, they are excellent sources of subject matter information.

This guide was prepared to help you recognize your leadership talents and to develop your other talents and knowledge. In this guide we've tried to relate this leadership with sources of poultry information. It was prepared by the 4-H Poultry Development Committee.

Issued September 1961



# **YOU, YOUTH, AND POULTRY**

## **A Guide for 4-H Poultry Leaders**

You are about to have many rewarding experiences through your association with young, imaginative boys and girls who come from varied backgrounds and whose behavior patterns are quite different.

One of your greatest satisfactions will be in helping these boys and girls develop and improve their attitudes, knowledge, and skills, the purpose of 4-H Club work.

The member's individual project is the hub around which you develop other learning experiences for them. The project teaches the know-how and know-why of recordkeeping, production, management, and marketing.

### **WHY A 4-H POULTRY PROGRAM?**

The 4-H poultry project can be and usually is financially profitable for a boy or girl. The member enjoys the pride of ownership and working with living and growing things.

Many 4-H poultry projects can easily be adapted to the club member's home situation and needs. When the club member takes part in the 4-H poultry program, he learns about one of the most fascinating and progressive segments of the agriculture industry.

### **WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES?**

The seven established objectives of the 4-H Club poultry program are given below:

1. Develop leadership talents and work toward achieving the broad objectives of character and effective citizenship.

2. Develop desirable work habits, sportsmanship, and ability to cooperate and to express ideas through participation in projects, discussions, method demonstrations, judging teams, and exhibits.

3. Appreciate and use scientific information in poultry production and marketing.

4. Acquire information and skill in the efficient production of poultry and poultry products.

5. Improve their knowledge of grading, marketing, and merchandising of poultry and poultry products.

6. Increase their knowledge of the nutritive value of poultry meat and eggs and how these contribute toward health.

7. Learn the importance of the poultry industry in the local and national economy.

Many 4-H Club leaders, as well as parents and members, will want to check to see if one or more of these objectives are being met in the local 4-H Club program.

### **SCIENCE AND THE 4-H POULTRY PROJECT**

Research has enabled the poultryman to hatch more of the fertile eggs in an incubator than a setting hen can hatch. A much larger percentage of the chicks hatched live to maturity, thanks to research findings in the fields of poultry feeding and disease control. The hens of today lay a lot more eggs than did their predecessors, due to scientific findings in the field of genetics or poultry breeding.

Thanks to scientific developments, eggs reach the consumer in a fresher condition; poultry

meat can be grown and dressed in one area and sold while still fresh in markets thousands of miles away.

Scientific developments have influenced every phase of poultry production and marketing. Some suggested fields of study for 4-H members that would bring out the scientific basis for what they know as good poultry practices are:

1. Feed tag study.—Take a tag from a bag of poultry mash and find out the nutritional reason for including each of the ingredients.
2. Influence of light on egg production.—Find out the scientific reason for using lights.
3. Anatomy.—Study the internal systems of the chicken and find out the function of each part.
4. Study embryonic development in the egg.—Embryo specimens, as well as specimens of diseased parts, can be preserved in a solution of 70% alcohol or 40% formaldehyde.
5. Study the structure of the egg.

## HOW CAN LEADERS HELP SELECT AND PLAN THE POULTRY PROJECT?

You'll find most 4-H Club members need guidance in selecting their project. The basic things to consider are the member's interest, his home situation, available finances, and market outlets. Projects will vary in size with the age and ability of the members. (Fig. 1.)

*A beginning member can learn principles from a small project. A small well-cared for project will give greater returns over expenses than a much larger one that is poorly managed. Older, more experienced members need larger and more challenging projects to hold their interest.*

Encourage poultry members to start projects no larger than they can properly handle. Also consider the time involved in effectively marketing the product; this is an important phase of any project.

Probably your most important service as leader or project advisor is to discuss possible projects with club members enrolled in poultry work that they can work on during the year. *These projects should be defined* and may include production, marketing, and science.



Figure 1.—Leader and parent help member select his poultry project.

Florida Extension Service.

### Production

This includes selecting the kind of bird the club member wants—breed, variety, strain or in-bred-cross—providing laying quarters, and feeding and managing properly. Accurate records, record analysis, and evaluation need to be considered.

### Eggs

*Market Eggs.*—Market egg projects are satisfactory in all sections of the country. In most areas local markets can be found. It takes about 6 months after chicks are started before they are paying out of pocket costs and usually nearly a year before the project can show any profit over all expenses. Smaller projects are most successful when the eggs are used at home or marketed locally. (Fig. 2.)

*Hatching Eggs.*—Production of hatching eggs, especially for broiler chicks, has become a highly specialized business. Club members with adequate housing facilities on the home farm may develop a profitable project.

Special financial arrangements and contracts may be made with a hatchery or hatching egg broker. The club member can acquire valuable





Figure 2.—Marketing eggs from properly selected and cored for chickens can be profitable 4-H Poultry project.  
Notional 4-H Service Committee, Inc.

experience and added husbandry skill from such a project.

*Brooding and Rearing Pullets.*—Many specialized poultrymen prefer to devote their full time to laying hens and not to raising replacement pul-

lets. Laying cage operators, not equipped with brooding facilities, especially like to make periodic purchases of ready-to-lay pullets.

Because of this development a 4-H Club member with housing and brooding equipment can have a good short-time project, since laying stock pullets are usually sold at 16 to 18 weeks. The club member frequently has the cooperation of the feed dealer or hatchery operator service men in drawing up the contract.

Club leaders should explore the possibilities of such a contract and possible incentive awards to be given for low feed conversion and low mortality.

## Meat

*Broilers.*—Broiler projects are popular with 4-H Club members. They are especially adapted to beginning members interested in poultry. Some States conduct special broiler contests that add to the appeal of this project. With small broiler projects, the birds may be used at home or sold to local markets. (Fig. 3.)



Figure 3.—A 4-H girl raises broilers—project especially suited for members just starting their poultry projects.

Notional 4-H Service Committee, Inc.

Broiler production requires about nine weeks from start to finish. With a beginning member, a project that gives such quick returns is desirable.

In some areas, larger broiler projects can be developed in cooperation with a feed company or processing plant. The company will frequently finance the cash cost of production.

*Turkeys.*—There has been a growing interest in 4-H turkey projects and the number of members growing turkeys for market has increased. Since the total population of turkeys has been growing larger in recent years, young growers find a splendid opportunity in this phase of the industry.

The National and many State turkey federations have encouraged this development. Special incentives in the way of trips, tours, and college scholarships have been offered. A turkey project may extend from 16 weeks for broilers to 22–28 weeks for mature market birds.

*Capons and Other.*—These projects require about the same skill as the other projects, and about 4 to 10 months from start to finish. Usually special markets must be developed to give good returns.

## Marketing

1. Market eggs
2. Hatching eggs
3. Broilers
4. Turkeys
5. Capons, ducks, geese, pigeons, and others.

Marketing projects include grading, processing, packaging, selling and delivering to market. Accurate records of each operation need to be considered.

## Projects on Commercial Poultry Farms

For a boy or girl living on a commercial poultry farm, special planning is needed to gain and hold their interest in the poultry project. The 4-H member's poultry project can be part of the farm operation. The 4-H member might take over the brooding, egg grading, recordkeeping, or some other phase of the business.

If members keep records of what they are doing and receive financial or other recognition, they will learn much and their interest in 4-H and the poultry business will be stimulated. This type of project provides a good basis for a father and son partnership. (Fig. 4.)



Figure 4.—This 4-H member is grading eggs, an important part of the operation of a commercial poultry farm.  
National 4-H Service Committee, Inc.

## HOW CAN LEADERS HELP CLUB MEMBERS?

As club leader you can help club members develop their projects and complete them successfully. Here are some ways you can assist members:

1. Help work out an understanding between parent and club member.
2. Help the member choose his specific project.
3. Recommend sources of finances.
4. Advise on buying chicks.
5. Assist the club member to obtain up-to-date subject matter.
6. Help members develop skills such as:
  - a. Candling eggs
  - b. Vaccinating poultry
  - c. Dressing, eviscerating, and packaging poultry. (Fig. 5.)



7. Encourage members to take part in talks, demonstrations, and preparing exhibits.
8. Advise members on selling poultry products.
9. Aid club members in keeping records, analyzing them, and preparing reports of their 4-H activities for the year.

10. Visit club members and check their projects throughout the year.

You'll want to assist club members on all phases of poultry club work during regular and special meetings. Teaching materials available include 4-H poultry manuals, other publications, movies, slides, and visual aids.

In addition to your county agents, 4-H Club agents, and State extension poultry specialists there are other sources of reliable information such as feed and poultry supply companies; poultry magazines and newspapers. These national poultry organizations also issue journals and reports which may be helpful:

Poultry and Egg National Board  
8 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago 3, Ill.

National Broiler Council  
Box 368  
Richmond, Va.

National Turkey Federation  
Mount Morris, Ill.

Institute of American Poultry Industries  
59 East Madison Street  
Chicago 2, Ill.

The project can and should be supplemented by many other related activities; these are important factors in stimulating the club members' interest and help develop character and leadership. You'll find some suggested activities under the heading, "Activities To Build Interest."



Figure 5.—Both the leader and the 4-H member take pride in the member's well-packaged poultry.

National 4-H Service Committee, Inc.

When the poultry program is evaluated, club members' projects and their many other activities will be the basis for the results obtained. You can get some measure of results from the number participating, percentage of completion, outlook for enrollment for the coming year, support of the program by local citizens, and active support of club members' parents.

## WHAT LEADERS DO AT THE 4-H CLUB MEETING

Boys and girls like to be actively involved in the program. You'll want to keep this in mind when programs are being planned. By advance planning you can have many club members take an active part in the planning as well as the program itself.

It is advisable to have special programs for those interested in poultry. A project advisor or leader can be helpful. This need not be a poultryman but should be someone interested in boys and girls as well as poultry. The poultry project advisor can help with appropriate seasonal topics such as:

Fall.—Housing and feeding layers, lighting and litter management.

Winter.—Recordkeeping, egg marketing.

Spring.—Brooding, feeding chicks.

Summer.—Range rearing, preparing for market, preparing for fair.

Member's project reports, club project tours, demonstrations and other tours are appropriate any time.

Check these outlined suggestions in preparing for and guiding a club meeting.

1. Arrange for the use of a meeting place and the appropriate facilities.

2. Obtain the material and equipment to be used in presenting the topic—slides, illustrations, movies, pictures, models.

3. Arrange for the presentation of the topic—discussion, demonstrations, talks, panels, skit, etc.

4. Consider others who could assist with the meeting. (See "Who Can Help and How.")

5. Provide an opportunity for practicing, discussing, and quizzing the members on the topic presented.

6. Review the material covered during the meeting.

7. Consider a topic for the next meeting.

## ACTIVITIES TO BUILD INTEREST

The poultry industry covers many varied fields. Special activities will stimulate members' interests and show them the many opportunities available. Some helpful and instructional activities that are easy to arrange, are listed here. Surely you can think of others.

### Method Demonstrations

Method demonstrations in the production and marketing phases of the poultry industry are important in planning successful 4-H poultry programs. They help the boy and girl know the story and how to tell it. Members can give demonstrations on such topics as brooding chicks, disease control, egg candling, grades and grading of eggs, grades and grading of poultry and poultry products. Other subjects include vaccinating chicks, debeaking, and culling. You'll find many other topics on page 10 under "Who Can Help and How."

### Visiting Projects

One of your most helpful activities as the local leader is visiting each member's poultry project. No matter how well informed the parents may be, your visit will help greatly to stimulate Johnny's or Susie's interest in his or her own work and to improve the quality of the project work. When you visit the project, a simple checklist or score sheet helps you emphasize important management and marketing factors in talking with the members.

### Tours

Tours improve the training and stimulate the interest of club members. Many club leaders arrange for all members to visit such places as egg candling and grading plants, poultry processing plants, retail feed stores, feed mills, veterinary

laboratories, large commercial poultry farms and retail food stores where poultry products are available to the consumers.

You might consider a visit to each member's poultry project, but only when special precautions are taken not to handle the birds or carry some disease from one farm to another. Only the owner should enter the pens and then only after the proper cleaning and sanitation have taken place.

## Awards and Contests

*You'll want to explain fully to each member the awards and contests program on a county, State, and national basis. Through poultry judging, egg grading, and demonstration contests, educational trips and other awards are often available. Your county extension office has information on these programs and contests.*

## Exhibits and Shows

Club members enjoy showing the results of their efforts and being recognized for the things they have learned. Such events help to set standards, popularize, and promote the area poultry program.

Exhibits of live birds are losing their popularity except for market bird classes. By exhibiting dressed birds, the birds appear just as the housewife would see them in her favorite market and the judges then have a chance to score or place them in ready-to-cook classes. (Fig. 6.)

Barbecuing and serving chicken to club members, other groups, or the family have become very popular in some areas. Barbecuing contests have been conducted in some States.

Exhibits of eggs, both in the shell and broken out, can be interesting and educational; and original or commercial posters dealing with consump-



Figure 6.—An exhibit of birds dressed for market by 4-H members.

Maryland Extension Service.



tion are always attention-getters. Some members or clubs join together to make up a booth exhibit. This may be stationary or placed on a truck as a float in a parade.

## **Recreational Activities**

Social activities should be included in each club meeting. The club leader will want to help members plan and develop well-chaperoned recreational activities. You can get suggestions and aids on recreation from county extension agents. A chicken barbecue can be fun and a good money-raising activity.

## **Communications**

Press, radio, and television offer an opportunity to inform people throughout the county about club activities.

You can strengthen poultry club programs by publicizing club members' achievements. You can use success stories to advantage by having these members appear before civic groups and community meetings to give method demonstrations and tell of their experience and achievements.

## **WHO CAN HELP AND HOW**

Besides the county extension agents and college subject matter specialists, persons from the following groups can help you with club meetings, tours, visual aids, demonstrations and demonstration materials, transportation, and financial aid. These suggestions apply to local club meetings and area and countywide sessions.

### **Hatchery Service Men**

1. Selecting chicks
2. Incubator operation
3. Sexing chicks
4. Why crossbreds?
5. Selecting breeders
6. Handling and shipping chicks
7. Tour of hatchery
8. Dubbing
9. Trap nesting
10. Egg records

11. Recordkeeping
12. Blood testing program

### **Poultry Processors**

1. Killing
2. Processing
3. Freezing
4. Packaging
5. Selection for market
6. Grading of ready-to-cook poultry
7. Grading of live poultry
8. Buying
9. Marketing poultry
10. Costs in processing
11. Tour of processing plant
12. Judging ready-to-cook birds

### **Veterinarians**

1. Specific disease control
2. Debeaking
3. Vaccination
4. Sanitation
5. Poultry laboratory use
6. Diagnosis
7. Sources of healthy chicks
8. Formation of an egg
9. Community approach to promoting poultry health

### **Retailers**

1. Handling
2. Storage
3. Merchandising
4. Advertising

### **Commercial Poultrymen**

1. Litter management
2. Selecting pullets for laying house
3. What to look for in buying chicks
4. Culling of laying flock
5. Equipment necessary
6. How to gather eggs
7. How to prevent dirty and broken eggs
8. How to prevent or stop hens from eating eggs
9. How to prevent or stop cannibalism
10. How to prevent feed waste
11. Surgical caponizing
12. Dubbing
13. Debeaking

## Feed Dealers or Feed Service Men

1. Feed analysis and formulation
2. Feeding chicks, etc.
3. Economic value of poultry industry
4. Egg-feed ratios
5. Cost of raising pullets
6. Cost of raising broilers
7. Tour of feed mill
8. Incentive award—trophies, trips, etc.
9. Serve on poultry program committee
10. Use of feeds containing antibiotics or other medications
11. Home-grown feeds

## Egg Processors

1. Candling
2. Egg quality
3. Cleaning
4. Packaging
5. Marketing eggs
6. Handling
  - a. Collection
  - b. Egg room temperature
  - c. Egg room humidity.

\*NOTE.—Frequently any one of the persons listed could present many of the listed topics.

# YOUR REWARDS

New skills

New experiences

New friendships

Satisfaction when you see the accomplishments of the young people you work with.

Recognition by your community because—  
you have shown maturity, interest, and imagination in becoming a leader and have fulfilled your responsibilities to the development of youth.



Growth Through Agricultural Progress